



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 27, 2011

S. 978

A bill to amend the criminal penalty provision for criminal infringement of a copyright, and for other purposes

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on June 20, 2011

CBO estimates that implementing S. 978 would have no significant costs to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any effects would be insignificant for each year.

S. 978 would broaden the coverage of current laws against criminal infringement of copyrights and would increase penalties for certain instances of infringement. Thus, the government might be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects that S. 978 would apply to a relatively small number of offenders, however, so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under S. 978 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

S. 978 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.